GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1294
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2004
LIFE SAVING DRUG FOR HEART PATIENTS
Bansal Shri Pawan Kumar

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Isoptin, a life saving drug for heart patients, is not available in the country;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) Whether this drug is manufactured in the country itself; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d) Isoptin containing Verapamil HCL was the original research product of M/s. Knoll, Germany and was being manufactured and marketed in India by M/s. German Remedies Ltd. upto 1998-99. With the change in the international business arrangements, the rights to manufacture and market Isoptin in India were transferred from M/s. German Remedies Ltd. to M/s. Knoll Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Mumbai. Consequently, German Remedies stopped manufacturing and marketing of Isoptin. M/s. Knoll Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Mumbai had been taken over by M/s. Abott Laboratories and marketing of Isoptin has been discontinued by them.

However, M/s. Nicholas Piramal (India) Ltd., Mumabi is marketing a similar drug for heart patients namely, Calaptin Tab. containing the bulk substance Verapamil HCL80 mg/tab.